

power" at close range, and as one
 apparently destined
 to be one of its more distinguished
 hierophants She
 knew, from personal experience, the
 heartlessness of its
 scale of values

"The rumour of an approaching marriage to a
 great political
 personage would be followed by a stream of
 invitations, if the
 rumour proved to be unfounded, the shower
 stopped with
 almost ridiculous promptitude "

She knew too, the strain on health, temper
 and character

"By the end of the season, indigestion and
 insomnia had under-
 mined physical health, a distressing mental
 nausea, taking the
 form of cynicism about one's own and other
 people's characters,
 had destroyed all faith in, and capacity for,
 steady work "

So it might be, with most But there was
 remarkable
 stuff in this girl something fibrous, that
 resisted and
 grew through the most unfavourable
 circumstances, behind
 it a will of enormous potency With herself,
 she is as
 harshly frank as she was, ever, later, to be
 accused of
 being with otheis Constantly, here, she
 rates herself
 again and again for vanity and all its tribe
 of sins Is
 vanity really the right word for this
 tenacious mental
 and spiritual vigour ? Is it not rather
 ambition, the urg*
 to domination and self-expression ?

The months in the country anyhow were
 months of
 hard and omnivorous reading, and of intense,
 if largely
 painful, thinking Book-buying was the Potters'
 one
 extravagance, even when the girls were very
 young, their
 father's comment, if a book they wanted to

read happened
to be banned by the libraries, invariably was
—"Buy it, my dear, buy it!" The books that she read, at
this time,
were concerned less with human fragility than
with science,
philosophy and sociology, Spencenan and
other It
was about this time that she settled down
seriously to